FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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MANITOBA
ECONOMIC
CONSULTATIVE
BOARD

Winnipeg, Manitoba
March, 1964

MANITOBA ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE BOARD
NORQUAY BUILDING, 401 YORK AVENUE
WINNIPEG 1, MANITOBA

February 28, 1964.

The Honourable Gurney Evans,
Minister,
Department of Industry and Commerce,
Legislative Building,
WINNIPEG 1, Manitoba.

Dear Mr. Evans:

I am pleased to submit, herewith, the First Annual Report of The Manitoba Economic Consultative Board as required under Section 16 (3) of The Development Authority Act, 1963.

It was the view of the Board that, since it has been established so recently, it would be premature to present its views on the province's economy. This report, therefore, is confined to an account of its activities and making available to the public its terms of reference.

Yours sincerely,

J. R. McMillan

J. R. McMillan,
Chairman.

MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND STAFF

The Manitoba Economic Consultative Board was established by The Development Authority Act, 1963. The following members of the Board were appointed by Order-In-Council No. 1300/63, October 3, 1963:

J. R. McMILLAN, *Chairman*

BALDUR H. KRISTJANSON, *Vice-Chairman and Executive Director*

J. ARTHUR COULTER	GORDON LAWSON
MORRIS NEAMAN	W. K. WILTON
WILLIAM J. PARKER	R. E. GROSE *(ex officio)*
GORDON CRAWFORD	N. D. COCHRANE *(ex officio)*
D. K. FRIESEN	J. S. ANDERSON *(ex officio)*
J. CLAYTON GILSON	R. M. BURNS *(ex officio)*

Section 12 of the Act outlines the objectives and powers of the Board but its terms of reference are specifically outlined in Section 9 of Order-In-Council 1300/63:

"*. . . the general purposes, objectives and duties of the Board shall be to:*

(a) advise the Manitoba Development Authority on programs and policies to achieve the development of the Province's economy and, consistent with this objective, to consider such matters as may be referred to it by the Manitoba Development Authority;

(b) examine the economic performance of the province with particular concern for plans for the future in both the private and public sectors of the economy;

(c) Seek agreement between the various sectors of the economy upon the ways of improving the economic performance, competitive power and efficiency of Manitoba industry in order to increase the rate of sound growth;

(d) consider, in consultation with government, management, agriculture, and labour, what are the obstacles to quicker growth, what can be done to improve efficiency, and whether the best use is being made of the resources of the Province;

(e) study other matters under direct government control and those affecting management, labour and agriculture which may affect the growth and development of the economy of the Province;

(f) consider, evaluate, report and make recommendations to the Manitoba Development Authority upon particular projects whether of long term or short term and whether or not such projects involve governmental participation by way of financial aid or other means."

The Board's staff requirements are in the process of definition. In an effort to avoid duplication of work being done elsewhere, the Board has moved cautiously in defining these needs. Accordingly, the staff at this time consists of an assistant to the Executive Director and a secretary. To properly fulfil its function, this staff will undoubtedly have to be increased within the year but this will not be done until the Executive Director completes his study of the requirements.

ECONOMIC REPORT

The Act (Section 16 [3]) provides that "the Board shall prepare and publish, not later than three months after the close of its year (calendar year), a report on the economic situation of the Province". In this regard, it should be noted that the Board became operational late in 1963. Therefore, the Board does not consider that it would be serving a useful purpose nor, in fact, that it would be carrying out its responsibility under the Act if it were to publish a report on the economic situation of the Province that was not independently prepared by its own staff and reviewed by the Board. There has not been sufficient time for this to be done. Such a report is, therefore, not being made.

ACTIVITIES AND APPROACH TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

In addition to preparing an economic report annually, the Board considers that it has two basic responsibilities:

1. To make recommendations to the Manitoba Development Authority based on its own review of conditions in the economy, and
2. To review and consider any matters or proposals specifically referred to it by the Manitoba Development Authority, its own members, by private groups, or individual citizens of the Province.

The Board's program during 1964 will reflect this view of its responsibilities. Since this implies a broadly-based development effort in Manitoba, it is the Board's intention to explore avenues that would promote effective co-operation between labour, management, and government. Thus, the Board was represented at the Fifth National Labour-Management Seminar in Vancouver in October, 1963, sponsored by the University of British Columbia and the National Productivity Council.

It will be recalled that the National Productivity Council was replaced during 1963 by the Economic Council of Canada. The terms of reference of the new body require it to "study how national economic policies can best foster the balanced economic development of all areas of Canada" and "to encourage maximum consultation and co-operation between labour and management". In so doing, the work of the National Productivity Council will be carried forward. Clearly, this offers real opportunities for co-operation between national and provincial economic planning bodies. The Board has established liaison with its national counterpart and has offered its full co-operation.

The Board has noted the recent seminar held by the Manitoba Export Corporation dealing with the unexploited potential of the Midwest United States' market for Manitoba manufactured goods. This type of activity by the Corporation, supported by local business organizations, is of vital importance to market expansion and thereby industrial development.

The Board recognizes the value to its own work of the report of the Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future. This report provides an estimate of the growth potential of Manitoba and identifies to a considerable extent the kinds of measures required to increase employment. With the advantage of this reservoir of studies recently completed, the Board has reason to believe that it can proceed without undue delay toward meeting its responsibilities.

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